

REMARKS

I. INTRODUCTION

Claims 1-7, 9, 10, 13-17, 19-21 and 25 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 18 and 22 has been amended. Therefore, claims 8, 11, 12, 18 and 22-24 are now pending in this application. The Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable.

II. PRIORITY CLAIM

The Examiner has acknowledged the Applicants' claim of foreign priority based on an application filed in Australia on December 15, 2000. However, the Examiner has indicated that a certified copy of the Australian application has not been received. Therefore, the Applicants are submitting herewith a certified copy of Australian Application No. PR 2115 filed on December 15, 2000.

III. THE 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 & 103 REJECTIONS SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN

Claims 1-4, 7, 9, 13-16, 19, and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,635,816 to Golub (hereinafter "Golub"). Claims 1-4, 7, 9, 10, 13-16, 19-21 and 25 also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as anticipated by the International Application No. WO 00/41976 to Mamoru (hereinafter "Mamoru"). Claim 5 stands rejected under 35

U.S.C. § 103 as obvious over Golub or Mamoru in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,886,902 to Haynes (hereinafter "Haynes"). Claims 6 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious over Golub or Mamoru.

As the Examiner will ascertain claims 1-7, 9, 10, 13-17, 19-21 and 25 have been cancelled without prejudice. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request that the § 102 and 103 rejections be withdrawn.

IV. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for indicating that the claims 8, 11 and 12 are allowable and that claims 18 and 22-24 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As the Examiner will ascertain claims 18 and 22 have been amended to include all of the limitations of the corresponding base claim. Therefore, the Applicants submit that claims 18 and 22-24 are in condition for allowance.

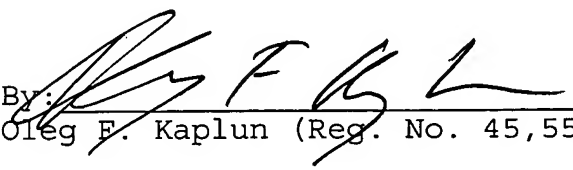
V. CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that all of the now pending claims are in condition for allowance. Since all issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact the

undersigned at (212) 619-6000, ext. 203 to discuss any matter concerning this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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